Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) during the current year for want of an evaluation study.

Reservation in private sector

2233. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across hurdles in attaining the objective of giving reservation in jobs to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes in private sector;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enact a legislation for the purpose;

(c) whether any amendment to the Constitution is being considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation in private sector and to initiate a dialogue with industry to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The GoM has not submitted its report so far.

Schemes for welfare of older persons

2234. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of older persons is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for their care and protection; and

(c) whether any new schemes have been launched for the welfare of older persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.